

Costa Rica High School Mission Trip

Informational Packet

- Dates
 - June 1-8, 2024
- Cost
 - Deposit: \$400 due when you register
 - Total Cost: \$992.86 (if all fundraising goals of \$5,200 are met)
- How to Register
 - Go to <https://www.mceachernumc.org/costa-rica-2024/> to register
- Who can attend
 - Current 9th-12th grade students for the 2023-2024 school year
 - We have 11 open spots for students, 2 open spots for female adults, and 1 open spot for male adult
- Travel Plans
 - All flights with United Airlines
 - Please note: Costa Rica is 2 hours behind EDT
 - Saturday, June 1
 - Out Atlanta, GA @ 3:45 PM to Houston, TX @ 5:00 PM CDT (Flight # 1729)
 - 1 hour and 15 minutes layover
 - Out Houston, TX @ 6:15 PM CDT to San Jose, Costa Rica 8:54 PM CST (Flight # 1055)
 - Bus ride is about 3.5 hours from San Jose to San Isidro de El General (CRMP Main Camp)
 - Arrive at CRMP at 12:30 AM CST (will feel like 10:30 PM EDT)
 - Saturday, June 8
 - Out San Jose, Costa Rica @ 11:35 AM CST to Houston, TX 4:25 PM CDT (Flight #1589)
 - 2 Hours and 35 minutes layover (go through customs)
 - Out Houston, TX @ 6:50 PM CDT to Atlanta, GA 10:02 PM EDT (Flight #1640)

- Important Travel Information
 - You will need a valid passport to go on this trip, please make plans to get your passport now if you don't have one or check your expiration date now
 - Passports take 4 months to get
 - Can only bring 1 checked bag and 1 personal item (book bag), space on bus is limited
- Weekly Schedule
 - Saturday, travel day
 - Sunday, worship and culture day
 - Monday-Thursday, work days
 - Friday, day off and travel day
 - Saturday, travel day
- Possible Projects
 - VBS, will need coordinator if group wishes to do this
 - Building projects, at main camp or in village
 - Main Camp: build addition in main camp village, sidewalk, flood beds for local communities
 - Village: latrines, churches, building additions, flooring
- Housing
 - If at main camp, bunkbeds in open dorm house (4 on site)
 - If at village, air mattress on the floor
 - Hotel Friday night in San Jose
- Day Off (Friday)
 - Leave CRMP Main Camp
 - Travel 2.5 hrs to Espadilla Beach, Puntarenas Province, Quepos, Costa Rica
 - Time and lunch at the beach (Pacific Ocean)
 - Travel to Hotel in San Jose (travel time 3 hours)

- Fundraisers
 - Grace and Eggs
 - Nov 5, Feb 4, April 28
 - Average \$1,300 per event
- Mission Training Meetings
 - January 21, 2024 @ 8:00-9:15 AM
 - March 3, 2024 @ 8:00-9:15 AM
- FAQ
 - Is Costa Rica safe for foreign travelers?
 - Costa Rica is a very stable country, both politically and economically. The result is that it is not as dangerous as some of the hot spots in Central and South America. That being said, discretion should be used whenever traveling in a foreign country, regardless of the political/economic situation. (The same could be said for traveling in the U.S.). I have been working in Costa Rica for the past 18 years without incident, and while Costa Rica Mission Projects obviously cannot make guarantees, we will do everything in our power to make sure that your team has a safe, comfortable and pleasurable experience.
 - What kind of shots should one get before coming to Costa Rica? What are the medical facilities like?
 - It is best to check with your personal physician. They can get the most up-to-date travel health information for you. Health care in Costa Rica is very good. Conveniently, the largest hospital in the Southern Zone is in San Isidro, so if need be, we can get a patient to that hospital for care. CDC Guidelines: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/costa-rica>
 - What languages do they speak in Costa Rica?
 - While you may very well meet some Costa Ricans who speak English, the official language is Spanish. Spanish speaking team members are very helpful, but not essential to the effectiveness of a team. Someone who can communicate with the host community will be available to translate when necessary. We do encourage those team members who do not speak Spanish to embrace the opportunity to learn to communicate through gestures and "sign language" (you'll be surprised at how well you do!). Cost Ricans are extremely patient people, and you are probably not the first "gringo" who has tried to talk to them.

- Do team members need prior construction experience in order to participate?
 - Absolutely not! We welcome everyone from seasoned professionals to folks who have never held a paintbrush before. We will always have knowledgeable people on the work sites to help those team members who have less experience. It is also important to remember that every project has different tasks involved — some require more know-how than others. We are confident that no one will leave feeling that they were not able to contribute to the work of the team. While the most visible result of work teams is often the structures they build, we are equally as concerned about the relationships that are built between teams and their host churches. You are not simply imported foreign labor. You are invited to participate in the church's embodiment of being the one Body of Christ!
- Who arranges transportation and food for the team?
 - We take care of all of those arrangements for you. Most meals are prepared on-site by members of the local church where the team is working. We also work with a dependable transportation company who gets the teams from the airport to the site and back, as well as the transportation for the day off.
- Other Churches With Us During 6/1-6/8
 - Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas and Central UMC in Florence, SC.
- If I have already signed up and realize I need to cancel the trip, will I get a refund?
 - No, all payments are non-refundable.
- What if my child needs to arrive late or leave early?
 - Students cannot leave early nor arrive late for this trip.
- How much money does my child need to take with him/her (in what currency if traveling internationally)?
 - Some sending money for snacks or souvenirs. Costa Rica takes dollar bills but will give change in local currency. Credit Cards will have an international charge to change into local currency.
- How will I receive updates on the trip? Will my child be allowed to use his/her phone?
 - We will create a group chat for the trip to all parents to get updates. Students can bring their phones, but McEachern UMC is not responsible for your student's phone. Phones also need to have international calling and data if your student takes it. Please check with your cell phone company for details.
- More Information about CRMP
 - <http://costaricamissionprojects.com>

- Cost Breakdown

Price Breakdown	Per Person	Total (14)
Plane Ticket	\$743.00	\$10,402.00
Bag Fees	\$70.00	\$980.00
Mission Supplies	\$700.00	\$9,800.00
Hotel	\$50.00	\$700.00
Food	\$50.00	\$700.00
Transportation	\$0.00	\$0.00
Travel Mission Trip Insurance	\$37.00	\$518.00
Grand Total	\$1,650.00	\$23,100.00
Budget	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Funds Already Raised	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
Base Price Today	\$1,271.43	\$17,800.00
Fundraising Still Needed	\$3,900.00	\$3,900.00
Total Fundraising Goal	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00
Price With Fundraising Goal Meet	\$992.86	\$13,900.00

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